the construction of Banspani-Dait-ari Railway Link over 146 K.M. and if so, at what cost; and

(b) what is the amount spent so far on the construction till date?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): ('a)' No, Sir.

(b)' Since no work has been approved on Daitari-Banspani rail link no expenditure has been incurred on the project.

Consumer movement

1193. SHRI MENTAY PADMANA-BHAM; Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken to aid, support and encourage consumer movement in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that ade-■ quate support and direction has not been forth-coming from Government to voluntary organisation dealing with Consumer Protection Movement;

(c) the details of steps taken in 1990 so far to increase public awareness about consumer movement;

(d) whether Government have taken any steps in different parts of the country to encourage the general public to form associations and orga-misation to demand for better service, quality products and stop over-pricing;

(e) the details of the concrete steps taken in this regard;

(f) whether Government have sought any public cooperation in combating the recent price rise, both through awareness and economising consumption of scarce items; and

(g) if not; the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN'PATEL): (a) to (g) Government has taken a number of steps to develop strong and broadbased consumer movement in the country. Such steps include giving representation to the representatives of consumer organisations in various Committees/groups formed for the welfare of consumers; amendment of major legislations such as Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, etc., to empower the consumers and registered consumer organisations to file complaints in the Court; enactment and enforcement of Consumer Protection Act, 1986; organisation of National, regional and State level seminars; publishing of literature in the field of consumer protection and distributing them free of cost; institution of 2 National Awards for Youths and Consumer Organisations, etc. The three-tier redressal machinery under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 provides an effective legal forum to consumer organisations *to* redress grievances in the field of defective goods, deficient services, unfair trade practices, etc. Since 1990, Government has re-introduced the scheme of financial assistance to voluntary consumer organisations. It has also started a weekly programme entitled 'Apne Adhikar' from 28 Kendras of AIR. In addition, it has conducted one training programme in Pune for voluntary consumer organisations. One booklet and 1 post card size material in the field of consumer protection have also been published and distributed free of charge to voluntary consumer organisations;

Government has accorded highest priority to check the rising trend in prices and is taking long-term and short-term measures for this purpose.

इलाहाबाद और वाराणसी के बीच छोटी लाइन को बड़ी लाइन में परिवर्तन करना

1194. **श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय :** क्या **रेल** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार इलाहाबाद और वाराणसी के बीच की छोटी लाइन को